

REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated June 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18-28, 31-33 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,669 to Cohen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,588 to Minter. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 8, 9, 13, 17, 29, 30, 34, and 38 as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

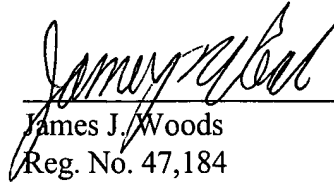
Claims 1-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18-28, 31-33, and 35-37 were rejected as being obvious over Cohen et al. in view of Minter. To further prosecution, all of these claims are being cancelled herein, without admission and without prejudice. The applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 8, 9, 13, 17, 29, 30, 34, and 38 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise would be allowable. Each of these claims is being amended herein to be in independent form and to substantively incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Therefore, claims 8, 9, 13, 17, 29, 30, 34, and 38 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection and allow the claims.

For all of the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and the objection, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicant's undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 29, 2004



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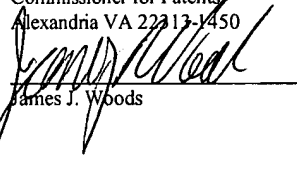
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